

TOC H JOURNAL

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The Editor accepts no responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed by authors of articles or in speeches at meetings.

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GENERAL NOTES

ONE or two points in connection with the JOURNAL itself claim attention on the first page this month. First and foremost there is a change in editorship. Readers who have kept a complete file of the JOURNAL since its first printed number in June, 1922, have but to turn it up to appreciate what "Bradders" has done not only for its pages, but, through them, for Toc H as a whole. Branch secretaries know, from his periodical reminders to them, his zeal to improve both the quality of its articles and news and its circulation. Everyone who has an understanding eye, has guessed what care and thought has been devoted to the smallest details of type and paper and arrangement of contents. Drop a copy of our JOURNAL on any club table in company with all the weeklies and monthlies, and it stands out with a character of its own in the crowd, even before you read a word of it. Beauty is so much less regarded by the "trade paper" than usefulness, and the paper of our Toc H trade happens to have both. "Happens" is not really the right word, for Bradders has been a deliberate artist who has raised this thing of ours far above the commonplace. We who have entered into his labours will strive to maintain the standard thus set, for Toc H cannot afford to lose so excellent a gift. Readers all over the world are saying "Thank you" for it.

NEXT a word about the present number. If you remove the wire stitches carefully from the back, you will find yourself with an abnormally thin JOURNAL in one hand, and a respectably thick annual report in the other. It has been thought good to repeat the experiment of last year by printing the report in the JOURNAL in order both that members may receive it as broadcast as possible, and also that subscribers and other friends of Toc H who do not normally read the JOURNAL may be introduced to a good thing. The Annual Report itself is unlike last year's, in that it is an entirely business document. It contains the most complete record yet printed of the personnel of Toc H, and a set of accounts of which probably no one but Mus will ever understand the humour and the fullness of joy. Hidden in the brief report itself, in the packed pages of figures and in the list of those whose gifts have helped Toc H a long step nearer to its dreams during the year past, there are some very moving and private incidents in our history. Treasure it not only as a useful hand-book, but as a romantic chapter in the progress of a living society.

CAREFUL readers of the last four numbers of the JOURNAL know that the name of Gateshead has found its way into the list of Groups. Just before the Birthday Festival, however, the Tynesiders delivered an attack of all arms (letter, telegram and telephone) on headquarters with a Lamp of Maintenance as their objective. They were then held up by the Guard of the Lamp on the barbed wire of investigation, but have now broken through and captured the Branch position which they deserve. This seems the fitting way to report the arrival of a new Branch which adopts a consistent mock-military procedure at its meetings. The Chairman at Gateshead, elected for each meeting, is called "Orderly Sergeant," and two "orderlies" are detailed at the beginning of the evening to make and deal out the refreshments. The minutes are called "Orders," are very amusingly compiled, and conclude each time with an "order for the day" in the form of a couplet or pithy saying which embodies some rule of life. New members are shown on the minutes as "taken on the strength," and when they undertake their regular job of service, their promotion to Sick Visitor, etc., is gazetted in the minute-book. Much useful work, including the running of a boys' club, is already in full swing. The Branch has also established contacts in several mining villages round about, is helping to form groups at Wallsend, Whitley Bay, Consett and Ryton, and is very much alive to the chances for Toc H on Tyneside as a whole. Some day they will, no doubt, be wanting—and getting—a House of their own. "The spirit of the troops is excellent," and all other Branches will welcome this new reinforcement wholeheartedly.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

THE tenth meeting was held on March 11. An offer of £5,000 to endow a chaplaincy for Hull was accepted with most sincere and grateful thanks, and endeavours are being made to find the right chaplain. The donor wishes for the present to remain anonymous. The Rev. C. W. Hutchinson, of the Cranleigh School Mission, was appointed Toc H chaplain for S.E. London, and it was decided that a house should be opened in Woolwich to be the base of this new padre's work. I hope that in May he will introduce himself to the readers of the JOURNAL and tell them something of the camps for sea-going boys which he now runs, and will continue to run, as a Toc H chaplain. As he cannot join us at once, the Rev. K. McFarland, now at All Hallows, was appointed a temporary Toc H chaplain (part-time) for London. The Gateshead Group, which has made great headway recently, was promoted to be a Branch, and will be represented on the new Council. Barclay Baron was appointed Editor of the JOURNAL in succession to Lionel Bradgate, with W. J. Musters as Sub-Editor, and P. W. Monie, J. M. Hollis and R. C. Grant were appointed to be the JOURNAL sub-committee. The report and accounts for 1922-23, which appear as a supplement to this number of the JOURNAL, were passed; it was decided that the Central Council should be summoned to meet at Mark I, 23 Queen's Gate Gardens, London, on Saturday, April 26, at 2 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned to March 27 for detailed consideration of the proposals to be brought by the Executive before the Council meeting.

P. W. M.

THE PARABLE OF THE OLD SIGNBOARD

THE Old Signboard (still to be seen outside Mark II) bears one date only. It reads 1915—?, and in the period of the device the War was still young enough to be the subject of the jesting saying that “the first seven years will be the worst.” It was a poor saying at best, yet it comforted many by its absurdity. But it is not without significance that no space was left to record the ending of Talbot House. Now we are beginning to know why.

In the same spirit, the great venture of the Mission throughout E.C.3, and far afield in greater London cannot yet be completely chronicled. Barkis gives me 600 words to speak of its beginning; but men’s souls don’t spring to light like so much mustard and cress, and our task is always sowing, and covering the seed. Then patience, hope, and confidence ensue. The angels are the reapers.

Zero hour was at noon on Leap Year Day, when the Padres lent us by their Branches knelt to receive the Bishop’s blessing, and went with him to raise the Cross on Tower Hill. Day by day the task before us deepened and extended. Each morning we gathered for a moment before our many midday tasks. Then away, two by two, to the four Churches, to the outdoor work, followed by the afternoon visiting of offices and warehouses. Then back to “New June” with appetites akimbo, and out again to Houses, Branches, Groups and Clubs. The mere statistics show that in the week the audiences aggregated over 12,000; of whom 10,000 were in trousers. Of deeper personal fruits I may not speak, but every Missioner could add his testimony that doors opened as of their own accord, and that in many places where He could else have done little because of their unbelief, Jesus began to do and teach.

All Hallows has been a different thing from that day onwards. More friendships than we know, and some from most unlikely quarters, date from those days; and rumoured plans for a like task elsewhere are the sincerest commentary. The one difficulty now in all this vast commitment is to secure the advance achieved, and as the Gospel puts it “to make the men sit down.” But somehow the disciples did it. What followed was in the lifting of His hands. So we go forward together to the time approaching, when He Himself is once more lifted up for us men and our salvation.

P. B. C.

TWO RECENT HAPPENINGS AT ALL HALLOWS

ON Lady Day, there came as a present to the Chapel a little gem of a study in oils of the Parent Lamp of Maintenance during its first year. We (at the time consisting of George Hope, Kenneth Macfarland, Brother Michael, Tom Savage, a stranger walking to look for work, a Shipping Manager, a Mancunian member, and some smaller fry) made a united but fruitless endeavour to keep the messenger to tea. But he would not. The picture bears a tiny plate to tell whence and why it came. It was sent as a gift to All Hallows from the Prince of Wales.

* * *

Twenty-four hours ago this next note would not have been written, and even now we know little of the real extent of the discovery. But this morning, after Chapter, a big old box that had lain under the Church Tower untouched in living memory,

was brought up to the Porch Room for investigation of its contents. These have already proved surprising in the extreme, though the best will need expert reading. Among them, for instance, is the record in 1502 of an obit for Alderman Croke, a receipt of the same period from a Warden of the Chantry, and a long transcript of a deed of gift from Edward IV. endowing two Chaplaincies to the Chapel, which is here stated categorically to have been built by King Richard, and "refounded by the illustrious Prince King Edward the First, our progenitor." P. B. C.

TOC H IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL

IT has often been pointed out that schools of various kinds are the natural nurseries of Toc H, and special opportunities for preparing for the active membership ahead ought to be found in those schools where boys remain as boarders up to the age of eighteen.

The ways in which Toc H may, and does, affect such a school are various and worth considering. First, there is its meaning to those boys who join it while still at school. The school member finds a new zest added to his ordinary routine of duties through the knowledge which he has gained by membership of the Group. He simply proves the fact that service is of the greatest value and enjoyment to the doer of it. To this is added regular discussion, which brings him to grips with the problems and the immensity of the work before Toc H, and leads to the habit of thought and to knowledge of himself. In our case the Toc H Group meets once a fortnight, and the usual programme is a talk, introduced by some member on one particular aspect of the Movement. We find that the principles of Toc H have a special influence in a school, for there people welcome something which will help to form their ideas and on which they may hang them as a guide to everyday action. When contact with a home Branch is possible to school members, the exchange of experiences can be of great interest and should be an invaluable aid towards the future. Above all, the fellowship of the whole thing links school-fellows together, and must contribute to the extension of the Great Fellowship of Toc H.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

In the second place, it is interesting to watch the general attitude of the school towards Toc H. It starts as one of indifference or hostility, based on ignorance. When the Movement was first brought to general notice in our school, public opinion was hostile. Many were against it on principle as something new and contrary to conservative practice, others turned it down as being nothing less than a Socialist organisation. We looked like failing at the outset.

Then our little Group began quietly to grow. General interest was, to a certain extent, re-awakened, but we who were members of the Group realised that what was needed was some system in making the thing known and some form of campaign to enlist those who would take an active part. If a favourable impression of Toc H was to be made, it must not be regarded as a society of "muffs" and "rabbits." The character of the members was a matter of the greatest importance. It was, therefore, decided that full membership should be confined to some half-

dozen or so in the Upper School, who, by their keenness and position, could act as a leaven in the whole community. As soon as it was noticed that quite reasonable and respectable people were members, information about Toc H found readier listeners. Several ways of "broadcasting" were tried with some success. One method was to turn the conversation in dormitory at night into the right channel and to make the most of time with a few snappy impressions of Toc H. Often members talking to their friends would awaken interest or visitors would be invited to our Meetings when some particular point of the Toc H system and ideals was up for discussion. Then, at last, we determined to show that Toc H was a real thing and alive in the world, and Barkis helped us nobly by a talk in the library one night. Though one or two came to this out of mere curiosity, we felt that people in the school had begun to understand Toc H as standing for something active, and to take an intelligent interest in it.

GETTING INTO HARNESS

By this time it seemed that we ought to do at least something to put into practice our ideal of service. An opportunity came from the town when the headmaster of one of the Council Schools was heard complaining that his boys had no *esprit de corps*, and suggesting that regular games would help them in this respect. We obtained the use of a local recreation ground and, as it was the summer term, attempted there to instil the rudiments of cricket into a band of fellows with whom we used to have rows and whom we had always termed (from the missiles they used on those occasions) "brickies." If they learnt little cricket, at least both parties came to change their views about each other. Now that Rugger (which they don't play) is here, we are rather at a loss for some small practical opening which will prevent our indulgence in words alone. Can any other school give us a suggestion?

Thirdly, there is all that comes to a boy on leaving school. When the young Tochonite (a new explosive patented by Tubby) leaves his school Group he is faced with a real test, for whereas up to this point he has mixed with those who were ready to keep alive his interest, he must now take action to form his own connection with Toc H. However much is done to help him in this, the change in his life makes it necessary that he should choose for himself. Despite his new and absorbing occupations it seems essential at this period above all others that he should do some definite job of service in order to grow accustomed to the feel of it.

In conclusion, a lot depends on the school Group in which a member's early enthusiasm is nourished. One thing that seems to succeed in it is—arguing. There is no lack of progress in the theory of fellowship and service, for a few meetings broaden a boy's mind wonderfully. But talking without doing may become merely a bad habit, and this is one of the many difficulties which a school Group has to face. As a rule it can only undertake social service with the greatest difficulty, but even if it can do a little it gives members a chance of "breaking the ice," so that they will be less scared at the thought of it when the bigger call comes later on. There can be no doubt that a Toc H Group brings new ideas into school life and can be made a real training ground for those whose duty it will be to "carry on."

SCHOOL MEMBER

TRAMPS AND MEN

NOTE.—*As the result of Gorton's article "In Touch with the Tramp," in the JOURNAL of last August, several members, we believe, have visited St. Francis's Home. The impressions of one of them is printed below. We have just received an inquiry from another member who is anxious to spend his holiday there in the second half of May, and would like to get other Toc H men to make up a party with him. Will any such write to R. Shelsdon, at Headquarters, who will put them in touch with the member concerned. Those who wish to visit the Home at other times should write direct to the Warden, St. Francis's Home, Evershot, Dorset.*

THIS is not a repetition of the article on St. Francis's Home in the August JOURNAL, but just the midnight jottings of one who was led, through reading it, to spend two glorious days in that "Home," as it is most fittingly called.

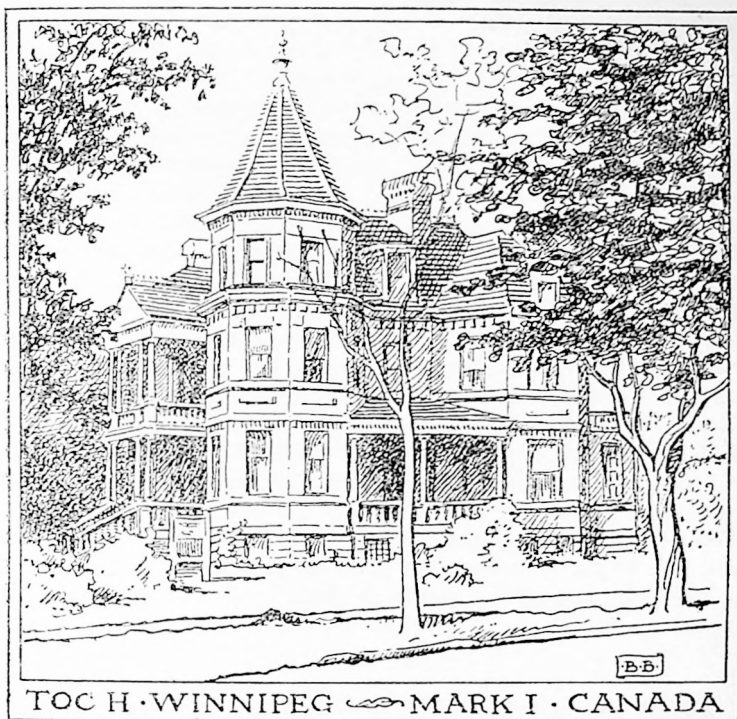
If you would understand the spirit of this place, look, first, at its name, for its spirit is that of its Patron, St. Francis. Here men are brought from the bottom-most depths of despair to the most joyous light of love and service. Go, see, and learn. If you cannot go, at least pause a moment and think.

There are to-day roughly 100,000 men "on the road," and as the days grow shorter the numbers increase. Some of them are beyond rescue. They deliberately choose theft rather than honesty, and hate rather than love. Their fault? Perhaps, but perhaps it was my great-grandfather's. Others are half-witted, and pity does not do much for them. Others again are the victims of misfortune; one false step (how many have *we* taken!), a financial smash, or a desperate search for work has driven them to the roads. They are down and out. No one will look at them. These do want work; they want another chance—go to Evershot, if you doubt it—but they are no longer their own masters. Give them their self-control and they will give you humility. Moreover, the last are increasing daily.

This makes us think. When, in future, we talk of the problem of unemployment, let us think of it in flesh and bone, in the wreckage of lives and the death of souls. Hitherto, the method of dealing with tramps in England has been to make relief as deterrent as possible. A tramp ward offers you a concrete floor, crawling blankets, perhaps a heap of stones to break, and a diet of dry bread and water. That is all. But this no longer deters. The system has broken down, and those in authority admit the fact, and despair.

What can we do? Let me hazard a few suggestions. First, ask questions, and try and worry out some answers. Secondly, if we decide to offer food to a tramp, let us *share our* meal with him. The crust of dry bread we can keep for ourselves, and when we have had a talk with him we may not regret the adventure. Thirdly, if we can, let us give him a trial, and see if his spirit is willing, though weak. If we are in a Rolls-Royce or the like, remember that if the money spent on the petrol were spent on food and clothing for one of the least of these derelicts, it *might* save his soul instead of our soles, and would employ just as many men. Let us not be among the unintelligent who are unaware that the idea that luxury is "good for trade" is a garment so torn to pieces by economic science as to leave the man who would shelter under it, naked, if not ashamed.

E. P. F.



TOC H • WINNIPEG — MARK I • CANADA

WHAT Toc H will accomplish in this new world is for the future to decide. Undoubtedly in this Dominion, with its larger, freer life, some adaptations will have to be made, but these adaptations must not alter the ideals or the aims of the movement. For example, while the large cities of the older land give wonderful opportunities for work amongst boys in districts known by that vile name of slum, our Western cities so far, thank God, give little of that work. Nevertheless, the challenge of the younger generation remains the same, to attempt to build a bigger and a better world in which all shall be given the fullest opportunities to develop their God-given powers.

No modern prophet will attempt to foretell the future of the Dominion of Canada. She is a young and virile country with immense resources, and some day she may stand with the keys of the nations of the world hanging from her girdle. How the foundations are to be laid depends very much on the young of this generation, and if they can be cemented and mortised together on fellowship and service, expressing the highest aspirations of the best of the British race in a desire to build a great commonwealth in which members shall be willing to forbear and forgive, and to live as members of one big family, then her future indeed seems a noble one. Into the building of that generation, Toc H has already thrown itself. The House in Winnipeg is but the first of a chain of houses which we hope will spring up from

Halifax to Vancouver, wherein young men will contemplate the example of their elder brethren, and live that life of unselfish service which, in its perfect manifestation, is found only in Him who said, "I am among you as He that serveth."

The House has already been enriched by many wonderful gifts: the Lounge Room, now known as the Barney Room in memory of a member of the Flying Corps; the "Three-Brothers Room," bespeaking the sacrifice of one family to the cause of right; the "Charley Room," recalling the gift of College and University life; the "Herbert," in memory of a young sergeant who always loved his men; and the latest gift, furnishings of the dining-room from the War Widows and Widowed Mothers Association, "That they might link up their passing memorial with the permanent memorial of Toc H"; the "Unknown Warrior's Room," furnished by parents of some young men who were never found; while the small crypt chapel is a gem of gifts in loving memory, and the whole House speaks of a love that will never forget. So Mark I, Canada, has come into being, and not after any pre-arranged or organised plan, but out of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, whose self-same guidance we often think of as an accident or chance. No member or friend of Toc H in the Old Land need now feel that he comes to Canada as a stranger to a strange land. The Montreal Branch stands with open arms to welcome you, and Winnipeg asks that you do not, as most untutored tourists do, try to cross this whole Dominion without a break, but stay off for a day's respite at the Gate of the Golden West, where a young man may soon find his sphere of labour and of service, and build for himself an abiding place in this Dominion which stretches from sea to sea.

H. C.

HINTS FOR BOYS' CLUB WORKERS

2. — *Choosing Officers*

WHEN starting a club it is advisable to limit the membership to half the number you ultimately want, and to build up gradually. As many helpers as possible should be in attendance for the first few months, for boys coming straight from the streets are rather a handful at first. As soon as the club has settled down, it is very important for the manager to pick half a dozen members who look to be likely club officers or committee boys. When once you have picked them, concentrate on these boys and see them as much as possible. Get them together at least once a week to discuss everything that happens in the club, and show them that it is as much theirs as yours. Have them to your own place on Sundays. Fill them with your ideals, and stick to them, for they may be the pillars of the club long after you have gone. In the first year or so you will meet with many disappointments. One boy who you thought would make a good club officer gradually loses keenness and eventually drops out altogether. Another finds an officer's responsibility too much for him, and hands in his resignation. If after the first year you have two of your original committee still with you, don't be discouraged: it may take a long time to get the first lot of officers to stick to their job. If, when you have to leave the Club, you can hand on to your successor a steady set of officers, you will not have failed. C. T.

TWO LETTERS

TUBBY has received the charming letter which follows, from an unknown comrade in arms. We shall all sympathise with the writer over the rate of exchange to which he refers in his second paragraph, and whenever he is able to overcome this barrier, shall be delighted to welcome him in England. Meanwhile, will any member who is likely to be in Brussels note M. van de vijvere's address and go and shake him by the hand for us?

"REV. MR. CLAYTON,

"It is already a good time I heard about Toc H, and as I am myself an old belgian warrior, I take some interest in your society. I have seen the Tommies at work, because our trenches were neighbour to the british, at the North of the Yper salliant while on the other hand our camps were in Canada wood along the road to Poperinghe. Since those homeric and sacred times our poor world has become somewhat older.

"I need not to tell You, I stopped many times in London during the war. It depends by your £ that I may see London back.

"So now if You have some pamphlets or tracts about Toc H, be so good to send some. I wonder if there is a section in the english colony here in Brussels, yet John Bull's children are numerous here.

"I beg to excuse my wrong english writing, but I have seldom the opportunity to use the language of Shakespeare.

"With my best thanks I am

"Yours sincerely,

Jos. van de vijvere.
10.iii.24."

"Rue du Progrès 435, Brussels.

THE following extract from nearer home, comes from a letter not written to Tubby nor intended to travel beyond its own county. It shows how deep and sincere the spirit of our common task is, when one member can write to another thus :—

"We of Toc H must never forget the sacred trust which is placed with us. . . . Schooldays and army life have done their share in enlightening us to present-day affairs, and now comes a greater call still, to carry on the spirit of Toc H, which, in my opinion, will crown all our past efforts. It will always be my earnest duty to carry out the ideals for which Toc H is famous to-day. I love the work of Toc H, and don't think any other thing has had such a hold on me. I could work for it day and night . . . to carry on and bring to perfection the high ideals and ambitions for which our Elder Brothers died.

" . . . I trust amidst our little family troubles we shall be successful in founding a real stronghold of Toc H in this town, and that it will prove a very valuable asset in the lives of the inhabitants, so that when we grow old, we shall be able to recall these happy days when we put our "all" into Toc H, and still to pass on the great work which our Elder Brethren left unfinished. So may we help to foster the great spirit of Fellowship and Brotherhood for which our Master died. . . ."

THE TOC H SCOUTS' TRAINING CAMP

"WE need a larger supply of Scouters of the right sort," says B.P., "men infected with the Scout spirit, not men merely out to have smart troops, nor to become high-brows full of how it ought to be done; but men disinterestedly eager for service for its own sake. Our aim must be to make the next generation one of better citizens, *i.e.*, of men whose ambition is not self-advancement, but free service for their fellow men." "The elder to serve the younger," says Tubby. The connection between the two movements seems so obvious; one of the first claims on Toc H must be the provision of man power for the Scout Movement. It is important that troops run by Toc H men should be well run, and run on the right Scout lines. Hence, the Scouter training camp at Southampton this Whitsuntide, when a crowd of Toc H men, keen to learn at least the rudiments of the art of Scouting, are spending a week at Mark V, in order to take part in a pretty strenuous course of training in such things as campcraft, games, troop management, pioneering, tracking, nature lore, etc.

The important facts about it are:—

- 1 Any member of Toc H, whether a Scout or not, is eligible.
- 2 The date is June 7-14 inclusive.
- 3 The place is Mark V, Bassett, Southampton.
- 4 There are no expenses other than cost of food, and all camp equipment will be provided. Only personal gear need be brought.
- 5 Names should be sent in at once, if possible, but in any case not later than May 1, to the Assistant Commissioner for Training, All Hallows Porch Room, E.C.3.

G. M.

TOC H DRAMA LEAGUE AND CONCERT PARTY

A PERFORMANCE of Alfred Sutro's play, "The Choice," will be given by the Drama League on May 14, at 8 p.m., at King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road, W.1, in aid of the Rhyl Street Old Boys' Club, Kentish Town, founded and run by Mark VII. Tickets, 5s. 9d., 3s. 6d., 2s. 4d., and 1s. 3d. (unreserved), can be obtained from A. E. Watkins at Mark I, E. Chapman at Mark II, W. Lee Praed at Mark III, W. P. Waller, honorary treasurer of the Rhyl Street Club, at Mark VII, and Miss Macfie, 7 Tower Hill, E.C.3.

The opening performance of the Tic Tocs Concert Party at Ealing, on March 6, was a most promising show, and the singing, dancing, and humorous sketches went down remarkably well with the first-night audience. The performance was a piece of Toc H work for others, and brought in a considerable sum of money. Heartiest congratulations to the party and especially to Cooko, of Mark II, and Berry, of Mark I, who were responsible for its organisation. Other engagements already made were—March 3 at Bow, for Bryant and May's Clubs; March 9 at Sidcup, for the hospital for disfigured ex-Service men; March 25 at Edgware Road, for Arnott's (Mark I) Scouts; May 1 at Amersham, for the Cottage Hospital; May 7 at Ealing, for the Hammersmith Scouts, and on other dates at Walthamstow and Stratford in connection with the Cancer Crusade. This little company, which should be of great help both to Toc H in London and to kindred societies, is open to book further dates. Apply to L. J. Berry, 25 Gresley Road, N.19.

LONDON SPORTS CLUB: GAMES AND CAMPS

I. — Soccer

BY the time this appears in print our programme for the season will have been completed, and the A.F.A. Senior Cup won—by another club. Team Secretaries are heaving great sighs of relief, for their days' work is finished at last.

The 1st XI has remained undefeated since the tragic battle with Aquarius in the A.F.A. Cup. The following results will be of interest to many:—*v.* Emeriti, won 14-1; *v.* R.M.A. (Woolwich), won 3-1; *v.* H.A.C., won 2-1 and 5-0; *v.* R.M.C. (Camberley), won 2-1; *v.* Westminster School, won 4-0; *v.* Old Grammarians, won 2-1; *v.* Alexandra Park, won 4-2; *v.* Midland Bank, won 2-0.

This has been by far the Soccer Club's most successful season, twenty-eight matches having been played, of which twenty-four have been won and only four lost. The side has scored 112 goals, and has only conceded thirty-four goals to the "enemy." The principal goal scorers were:—T. L. Cornelius, 21; F. V. F. Bennett, 20; G. G. Farnfield, 16; C. Thompson, 14; B. S. Farnfield, 13; and R. J. O. Wilson, 11.

It would be obviously unfair to mention any particular player for special praise, as every man in the team has done his best, with very good results. Next year we hope to have a bigger say in questions concerning the destination of the most-coveted A.F.A. Senior Cup—in the meantime, we shall be busy making white flannels black.

II. — Rugger

Analysing results by points is a loathsome job, and generally gives a very erroneous impression, especially when one is discussing our Rugger Section. Of the matches played by the 1st XV, four have been won and seven lost. Since Christmas there has been a perfect epidemic of match-scratching through ground trouble, 'flu, and numerous other causes.

The "A" XV has played nine games, winning one, drawing one, and losing the remaining seven—some by the narrowest possible margin.

On the whole the season may be regarded as a fairly successful one, especially in view of the fact that we have not been overburdened with players.

III. — Cricket

We are informed that preparations for the coming season are well in advance, but that the only drawback is that, as usual, the appeal for players has not yet met with any very great response. Will those members who wish to play please communicate with R. M. C. Dell, of Mark I, the Hon. Team Secretary, as soon as possible?

Two good fixture lists have been arranged, and the programme includes games against the R.N.C. Greenwich, Finchley, Dulwich College, Cross Arrows, etc.

A practice game will be played at New Barnet on the first Saturday in May, and it is hoped that crowds of members will put in an appearance to show what they can do.

IV. — Tennis

There will be at least four Tennis Courts at Barnet this season, and if the membership of this section becomes large enough to warrant it, we are prepared to add six more.

Those desiring to become members should write to the Hon. Tennis Secretary, H. J. Mellows.

This invitation, of course, includes members of the L.W.H.

W. J. M.

V. — Camps

Camping is to be a great feature at Foily Farm this year, for the London Sports Committee has really spread itself to provide facilities for the simple life in the open air, and many boys will have occasion to vote its members "sports." Club-leaders, Scouters, C.L.B. officers, etc., are invited to

see to it that the camp gear, sufficient for sixty boys, is kept in constant use throughout the summer. The following points should be noted by intending campers :—

(a) *Applications.* Drop a post-card to Herbert Cooke at All Hallows Porch Room, Byward Street, E.C.3, asking for a camp-site to be allotted to you. State the date required, number of boys, name of persons in charge, and whether Club, Scouts, C.L.B., or "other denomination." This application should be made at least three days before you wish to camp.

(b) *Arrival.* Having been allotted a site and having found your way by the map provided, you report on arrival to the Rover or other responsible man in charge ; he will issue ("subject to the usual undertaking to indemnify") tents and other stores, and show you your site. He may even help you to pitch tents if you require his help.

(c) *Breaking Camp.* On leaving, you hand in stores—in cleaner and better condition than you received them of course, get your camp-site inspected and approved, and march out with all the honours of war.

(d) *We* provide site, tents, ground-sheets, cooking-gear, lanterns, spades, wood-choppers, etc., and washing facilities—though you must go steady with the water.

(e) *You* bring your own blankets, plates and mugs, knives, forks and spoons, and any other personal gear. You must also make your own arrangements about food.

All this begins at Easter. Meanwhile, we need every kind of help from amateur carpenters, hedgers and ditchers, claim jumpers, ex-sanitary-Lance-Corporals, and any other willing hands to prepare for the great offensive. Moreover, offers of help in the capacity of Camp Wardens from expert campers ready to give up an occasional week-end for the good of the cause would be more than welcome.

G. M.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

ALDERSHOT. In co-operation with Tubby's "Spring Cleaning," we spent a real Toc H Sunday on March 2, in the Old Parish Church. Special services were arranged by our Padre, which were well attended. District Scouter Britton was our host on March 6, when seventeen of us gathered together to arrange an Eastern Exhibition at Enshott, a Flag Day for St. Dunstan's and a Fête for the summer. Col. Dill addressed us on March 20 on a "General's View of the War," followed by discussion. It is with deep regret that we report the death of one of our musicians, Harry Borland, who was one of the first to make Toc H known in Aldershot. He fought hard to keep up the glorious traditions of his Elder Brethren by his eagerness to serve Toc H, which won him many friends, by whom his loss is greatly felt. His last wish was that Toc H should bear him to rest, which was fully carried out by six pall bearers in uniform.

H. W. S.

CAMBRIDGE. We don't feel very talkative this month, partly because there has not been so much doing since the majority of our members "flitted" for their vacation, after a strenuous Lent term. We had our Branch Service on March 9 at 8 p.m. in Holy Trinity Church, conducted by the Vicar, Padre Woods, who is our Chaplain, and houses our Lamp in his church. About sixty of the Branch were present at the service, and these were undoubtedly reinforced by it and Padre's vigorous words. Blessings on him ! Our War Graves Pilgrimages Fund progresses. In two evenings, March 14 and 15, we collected £27 at the "Central" Cinema. Now, then, Oxford, how does it fare with you ? Will Branch members please note that H. C. W. Barrett, at Messrs. Bowes and Bowes, is now an Assistant Secretary, vice Sugden, resigned. Also, the next Guest Night will be on April 29 at the "Tea Shop," when "Padre" will be our Guest. Further details later. Our best wishes to Toc H everywhere, for all the true and lasting joys of Easter.

O. W. T. W.

CANADA : MARK I. Already our Winnipeg members have their hands pretty full. We have our workers on the Hospital Committee. We had a Scoutmaster training class in the House each

Wednesday evening for some weeks. One line of service, at present unique in Toc H, may be of special interest to members at home. On December 20 last, we arranged to broadcast a concert for the children who were sick or in homes and orphanages. We arranged to fit up Magna Vox sets in large institutions, and we borrowed crystal sets for sick children. These were taken round to the homes from which requests had come, by members and Boy Scouts, and tuned in. The whole organisation was well done by three members. Since that first experiment, the Winnipeg broadcasting station has asked us to broadcast a concert a month. After the last concert, a man walked into the House and offered to give us fifty small sets and thus save us much time in borrowing. Letters of thanks pour in from all parts of the West, especially from the sick and aged and poor. Here is an extract from the letter of a man living in the West:—"I was lost one night and wandered into the House at Pop. A man I had never seen before helped me and cheered me. I have never seen the man since, nor had I heard of Toc H until the concert." A speaker is chosen for each concert to broadcast a short story about the ideals of Toc H. Note: Regular meeting every Tuesday night.
H. C.

CARDIFF. Padre Jim Hawkins, nearly seven feet of real Bristol enthusiasm, rolled in this month. This ranks as one of the outstanding events of our Branch. His report of the success of the London mission impressed us with the magnitude and far-reaching effects of real Toc H'ism. On April 12, Cardiff makes its first attempt at penetrating farther west, led by the worthy Bristol Padre. At Maesteg, the scene of attack, a few Toc H pioneers are awaiting help in the forming of a new group. Before the next Birthday Party, we hope to have a strong contingent of Welsh Groups aspiring to the honoured status of full-blown Branches. Basil called together the little band of cricket enthusiasts last week. Many words of comfort and inspiration moved us to continue our efforts in this direction. Deeds shall be recorded later. On the day before the Western Conference in June (for which a strong Cardiff contingent is assured), we hope to show Mark IX how to play cricket. GUEST NIGHTS: Every Monday at Maskell's, Queen's Café, Queen Street, at 7.30 p.m. The programme is usually as follows:—First Monday, Informal Club Night; second Monday, a talk by a Guest of the Evening; third Monday, Debate; fourth Monday, Branch Business; fifth Monday (when it occurs), Informal Club Night.
B. W. J.

CHELTENHAM. The Boys' Club still flourishes. Williams took down a concert party one night, the boxing has been interesting and energetic, while billiards matches with the Junior Y.M.C.A., have been good for both clubs. The first of the two meetings in March was given up to a sing-song and free-and-easy, and the evening revealed some new talent, both amongst the songsters and the tellers of tales. The quality of the music was high, but the altitude of some of the yarns was higher. The second meeting starred Henry Hawkins, of Bristol. His first visit to this Branch, to be followed, we hope, by many more. He brought his venerable parent with him, and the dear old Canon won our hearts at once—his Irish stories giving us great joy. Future speakers are the Vicar of Emmanuel and the Chief Constable. The Branch has lost a real friend by the death of Mr. Thos. Clarke, who gave this Branch its Lamp of Maintenance in memory of his son Willie—one of our earliest members. At his funeral on March 28, the Branch was represented by Major-General Lyons and the Hon. Sec. The service was taken by Keay, our Free Church Padre.
E. C. G.

COLCHESTER. This last month has been a full one for our Branch. We started off with a Whist Drive, with the object of paying off a debt in connection with the furnishing of our Branch Headquarters. We achieved our object, and the drive went off with a fine Toc H spirit. On March 8, Major-General Bruce Skinner was initiated as a member of our Branch, and the same evening gave us a carefully thought-out address on "Free Trade." On March 15, another of our members, W. L. Manning, gave us a very interesting and instructive address on "Cheques." On March 22, the Rev. W. A. Ferguson took us by a lantern lecture to "Canada," where we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

On March 8, we were very pleased to greet our Ipswich member, D. W. Emsley, for the first time. During the Toc H Mission, our Secretary and Frank Brown went with "Sawbones" and party to visit the Ilford Branch. It was a happy evening, and we hope to see Ilford on a visit to our Branch during the coming summer. We are having corporate communion on the second Sunday in each month at 7 a.m., in the Warriors' Chapel at S. Mary-at-the-Walls Church. Our Lamp will also be in the Chapel. We hope as many Anglican members as possible will make a special effort to attend these services.

W. L. P

DERBY. Our second effort at running a Toc H dance, at which 250 people were present, was a great success both socially and financially. We have now secured an excellent room for headquarters, and will be found there by visitors at frequent intervals. Our concert party recently gave a first-rate rendering of "Box and Cox," in aid of a church. We are again spending Easter in camp at Winstar, where we are giving a concert *inter alia*. Some thirty of our members attended a corporate communion in Derby School Chapel on March 30, our own Padre officiating.

MEETINGS: First Tuesdays and third Fridays at Boden's Yard, London Road. DENIS G.

DEWSBURY. March has kept Dewsbury Tochonites rather busy. The charity ball which we ran in the Town Hall, in aid of the Earlsheaton Isolation Hospital, was a brilliant affair. Two members did the decorations, our ladies' committee managed the buffet, Mr. F. Megson, President of the Chamber of Trade, lent us all the crockery and the handsome silver-plate, all the food was given by friends and local tradesmen, and the local Press did everything in its power to back us up. Mrs. Merson, wife of our President and one of our hardest workers, was unhappily too ill to attend, and the Secretary expressed the best wishes of all of us for her recovery. In her absence, the matron of the Isolation Hospital gave away the prizes. As the result of the ball, we have been able to hand over £50 (the sum which we were asked for in the appeal which reached us) to the Hospital, a charity which has been rather sadly neglected. Now that our hospital effort is over, we shall devote more of our time to every-day social service. Work in the Dewsbury Boys' Welfare Association is going on steadily, and it is a great satisfaction to us that Toc H has been asked to appoint another delegate to the Council of this Association. Crann will now represent us alongside our Secretary. During the month, Crann is to be married, and we all wish him and his bride health, happiness and long life. Our Dr. Barnardo's match-cabinet scheme is beginning to bear fruit. Our visit to Shaw Royd this month was a great success, thanks to Avec'em and Chips. From April to September (inclusive) Dewsbury only meets on first and third Thursdays (*i.e.*, April 3 and 17) in the Temperance Hall at 7.30 p.m.

JAY GEE

GATESHEAD. The flag flies high o'er the Gateshead billet, and the troops are on their mettle, since the latest dispatches from G.H.Q. proclaim us an official Branch. The news came through on March 17, and spread like wild-fire throughout the ranks, creating some delay before business could safely be brought forward. Reviewing the earlier activities of the month, on March 3 we held our monthly supper, followed by the usual three-ply smoke screen, which went off in real Toc H style. During the month jobs have been steadily rolling in, and our Jobmaster, "Groggy" (who now has some wonderful forms from Northern H.Q.), is in his seventh heaven handing out work (and forms) to all and sundry. The Lent Lantern Services at St. Christopher's Mission, with a combination of organ and "Toc H" violins, still continue to carry all before them.

BASS & BURTON

GOSPORT. On February 27 the Deaf and Dumb Club, mentioned in our notes in the February JOURNAL, was opened by the Mayor (in an unofficial capacity) at the headquarters of the 2nd Gosport Sea Scout Troop, by kind permission of Scoutmaster A. Saunders, who is a staunch member of Toc H. The most spectacular display provided by the Sea Scouts proved highly interesting to our

deaf and dumb guests, many of whom had no experience of scoutcraft whatever. This emphasised to us the great need of bringing out these people, whose affliction naturally makes them of a retiring disposition, to fraternise with the hearing public. The Mayor expressed his great sympathy with the deaf and dumb, and suggested that Toc H might do something to include the blind. Until the present scheme has been perfected, we do not feel ourselves able to take up his suggestion, but a scheme for the blind shall be our next job. The difficulty of securing a clubroom for the deaf and dumb has been overcome by a novel plan which may be worth noting by other groups and branches. Being quite ordinary working chaps, not over "flush," and not yet having enrolled a conjurer in our group, we had to sit and think a little. Then we "made eyes" at the various parish rooms about the town and consulted the respective clergy about the possibility of obtaining free use of them for one night. Owing to the generosity of the clergy, we have been able in this way to arrange a monthly meeting for the club. Meetings were held on March 21 and 27 at St. Matthew's and St. Thomas' Elson respectively. Our next course is to negotiate for a permanent clubroom for use one night a week, and, as there is every prospect of our success in the near future, there will be ample scope for the service of our members in organising and equipping the Club. Another useful service to be reported is being done by Williams, himself a keen wireless expert, who is devoting much of his time to visiting Scout troops in Gosport to give lectures on wireless and instruct the boys in the fitting of installations in their own clubrooms. This has been most enthusiastically received by the boys, for it opens up larger fields for their activities.

H. E. M.

HARTLEPOOL. Since "Grantibus" visited us on February 26, great progress has been made and we can report a Toc H Group firmly established in the Hartlepoons. Several individual members are doing jobs of Social Service, and we are looking forward to the chance of running a Summer Camp for Boys. Dr. Morison, of Boys' Brigade fame, was our guest on March 12, and members are availing themselves of an opportunity of seeing the Brigade Company at work. Our meetings will be held every Thursday in future at the Clubroom, 28 George Street, West Hartlepool, commencing 7.30 p.m.

H. V. L.

HUDDERSFIELD. On Tuesday, March 25, Grantibus and Peggy from Sheffield descended upon us, the latter being particularly impressive, for a time, in horn-rimmed spectacles. Grantibus gave us an inspiring little talk that we hope will help us to smooth away one or two difficulties that have been perturbing us lately. Huddersfield, he said, was something of a "hush-hush" branch, but whether he thought so after one or two irrepressible members had had their say I cannot tell. "Peggy" was not a little taken aback by the depravity of one member who asked, on seeing the badge on his blazer, "what college he belonged to?" Illness has kept away from our meetings lately two of our most valued members, Leonard and Colonel Broadbent, but both are now on the high road to recovery. Leonard, by the way, is now the proud father of a son and heir. We are now going to make a spirited effort to increase our membership, and the light will yet shine in darkest Huddersfield.

J. W. D.

LEEDS. Headquarters at 3 Oxford Place, Leeds, have now been established. Visitors from other Branches will be heartily welcomed there. Some friends have already tracked us down and have sampled our cooking—medical reports on effect thereof not yet to hand. A "House-warming" is being arranged, of which more anon. At Branch meeting on March 25 Miss Wilson gave us a capital idea of her work as Secretary of the local council of Social Service. We are in close liaison with this Council, as we occupy rooms above their offices. Addresses arranged for future Branch meetings are on "Boy Scout Work," by Major Bullock, D.S.O.; and "Boys' Brigade Work," by Mr. W. Farrar Vickers.

W. O.

LEICESTER : MARK XI. Profiting by the absence of Sawbones at All Hallows, we made bold on Ash Wednesday to discuss "Toc H and Religion," combing out the meeting before we began

to make sure no parson had sneaked in. One managed to evade us in the person of Padre Hall, of the Student Christian Movement, who secured ample forgiveness by his valuable contribution to the evening's discussion. The discussion, along broad lines, proved very profitable. "Brig," "Perky" and "Widdy" officiated, each according to his ministry, at the little service which followed in the Chapel. The week following brought Mr. Charles Bennion, J.P., as our Chief Guest to talk to us on "Some Industrial Problems," a subject for which his half century or so of experience amply fitted him. He held our close attention until Chairman "Bill" called time. On March 19 Mr. G. P. Cooper came from Nottingham to tell us something of the life and antecedents of his late brother-in-law, Major Edmund Street, to whose memory one of our rooms is dedicated. To the inspiration the room itself affords Mr. Cooper has added a vitality and a reality we are grateful indeed to feel. It only needed the "implosion" of our old friends from Derby to make our last meeting of the month absolutely complete. The Northampton, Nottingham and Loughborough Groups dropped in on us "friendly-like" all on the same evening, and all in some force. Loseby of ours, who, shedding at the door all that makes for extreme deference in the outer world, gave us a very human talk on his impressions of the House of Commons during the first post-war Parliament. We are saving our questions for his next appearance. The hostellers' platoon is gradually climbing towards effective strength, and the outside activities of the Branch are going ahead. Our gratitude and sympathy go out to "Romeo," our second Jobmaster to "crock up" in a comparatively short space of time. We hope to have him among us again soon. Meanwhile, with an inspiring confidence, "Bill" Culley fills the breach.

The Branch meets every Wednesday at Mark XI, at 8 p.m. The April fixtures were announced last month.

LINCOLN. A word from the old cathedral city to show that, although quiet, the Branch is not sleeping. We have a nice room for our meetings, which are held once a fortnight, and, thanks to the efforts of our members, the room has now a shiny appearance, and is becoming furnished. Meanwhile, our members are trying to act in accordance with the spirit of the movement. Three members have undertaken to give their services to the blind on Sunday afternoons. Other members are engaged with a boys' club, which we have undertaken to be responsible for. This means two nights a week, and a Bible class on Sunday afternoons. All of our members are engaged in Social Service of some description. The Branch received the thanks of Mr. Dunstan (Organiser of the recent missionary exhibition in Lincoln) for the services rendered by Toc H members. Up to now we have had one paper, on Coal Gas, which was enjoyed very much, and a lively discussion followed. Other papers are promised, on various topics, from lamplighting and antiques to architecture. In the near future we hope to arrange a social evening, at which we hope Sleaford members will be present. It will be a pleasure to us to welcome any member of Toc H who is visiting Lincoln. Our next meeting is to be held on April 8, at 8.30 p.m., at our Headquarters, C.L.B. Drill Hall, Westgate. E. G.

LONDON: MARK I. The past month is memorable for the Toc H "Earthquake." Mark I were indeed fortunate in having Pat Leonard appointed to them for the week, and look forward to further visits from time to time. We have to thank various speakers who have given us talks recently—Mr. Weiner, on the Zionist Movement; Colonel "Ronnie" Campbell, on Physical Training in Foreign Parts, in whose splendid vision of the future development of public gymnasia all Toc H members felt a keen interest. We have also had a lecture by the Rev. H. T. Carnegie on the Housing conditions in North Kensington. He gave us serious thinking on our responsibilities in our own district, and laid out a scheme by which we can help to get bad conditions improved. There is still room for older volunteers for this job; can outside members help? We still have to make the acquaintance of several nominal Branch members (JOURNAL Subscribers); will they try and get along on a Wednesday, or, at any rate, reply to the Secretary's letters? G. R. T.

LONDON : MARK II. During the first part of the month our activities were naturally directed towards the Mission, and Mark II would like to express its deep debt of gratitude to "Oogaf."

On March 13 Philip Kerr, of the "Round Table," came and gave us a very thoughtful and stimulating address on "The Bible and its Application to Modern Problems." It was one of the most interesting talks we have had, and a good crowd turned up. Mr. F. A. Mitchell talked to us delightfully in the following week on "A Sense of Humour." Filson Young was to have come on March 27, but was unfortunately prevented by illness. We made the best of things by having a scratch debate on the Tram Strike—"Binks" playing the lead.

LONDON : MARK VII. The Mission Guest Night on March 6, at which Alec Birkmire and Edward Talbot held forth, was notable for a valuable, though at times unduly pessimistic, discussion about the Christian attitude in business. Since we began to hold our Guest Nights on Thursdays, instead of Fridays, the attendance has improved a hundred per cent. The House-warming on March 13 was a great success, and the songsters and "wafflers" must have our grateful thanks. Tubby was not *at* the piano (thank heaven!), but he told the whole eventful story of the Mark VII piano with enormous zest. George Moore, too, was in great form. On February 29 Captain Suart gave an entertaining and breezy account of his adventures in the Metropolitan Police. We had another interesting evening on March 20, when T. Robson talked on "Labour in America." On March 27 we were delighted to welcome D. S. Paterson, who chatted in his inimitable way on the work of the London Dispensary for the Sick Animals of the Poor. Branch work is going ahead steadily. We earnestly ask the support of London members for the Drama League performance on May 14, particulars of which will be found on another page of the JOURNAL. The proceeds will be given to the Rhyl Street Old Boys' Club, which was founded by Mark VII nine months ago. The organisation of the Club has recently been overhauled, and, with the assistance of the Drama League, a determined effort is to be made to help it out of its financial difficulties. J. W. A.

LONDON FIXTURES. In London, each House has a regular Guest Night as follows : Mark I, Wednesdays ; Mark II and Mark VII, Thursdays ; and Mark III, Tuesdays. Supper, first sitting, is at 7 p.m., and the lectures, etc., begin about 8.15.

April 10, at Mark II, Robert Blatchford ; April 24, at Mark VII, Hind Smith, lantern lecture on "Dr. Barnardo's Homes" ; May 1, at Mark VII, Col. John Murray ; May 7, at Mark I, H. M. Abrahams (Cambridge Blue), "The Olympic Games and the Future" ; May 14, at King George's Hall, Drama League. (See p. 98.)

LOUGHBOROUGH. Being only just hatched, we have not much to say for ourselves, except that we are progressing well and everyone has the Toc H spirit. We have had four meetings since our coming into existence on February 22. We have already had one job, the sending of ten members to act as stewards at the Eisteddfod held in the town, March 21 and 22. "Sawbones" has been over to talk to us together with one or two other members of Mark XI, who are very keen on seeing our Group flourish. We are sorry to part so soon with a very promising member, "Chinky," who sailed for Shanghai on March 28. We wish him Good luck and God-speed. CHUCK

NORTHAMPTON. While the authorities are busy talking up the conversion of this town into a beautiful city, and offering splendid opportunities for generations of Talbothousians to pay for the scheme, our puny Branch still struggles along, leaving, somewhere, an ever-widening track of helpful endeavour. Our membership still increases, as do also our activities. It seems rather a monotonous job to "blow up the trumpet" month by month, but at the same time our humble efforts may provide some kind of suggestion. The Rest House for Unemployed is certainly a success, and has proved a boon to many unfortunate fellows. Food at low prices is provided, and plenty of magazines, papers and games are always available. Our particular evening for a "breeze" falls on

Thursday, when we usually give a concert. Some months ago a fellow was sent to Australia. Toc H helped to equip him for the journey. He now writes that he is doing well and expresses great appreciation of the assistance given. March 5 brought Gillespie from the remote backwoods of Rushden. His discourse on "Evolution" was very fascinating. After such a talk, it is almost impossible to realise that one is human at all! March 19 brought the family again to the feet of Eric Shaw, the Bug Merchant at the local hospital. He amused us immensely with gruesome relics of dead men—legs, livers, hearts and the like. Supper was particularly enjoyable that evening!! Since Barkis' visit in February, we have given some thought to the formation of country branches or groups. We started at Daventry on March 24, and took the place by storm. We have not heard the last of Daventry. Other small towns will be similarly dealt with in due course by our flying squad

MEETING. Every Wednesday at 60 Bridge Street, 8 p.m.

C. L.

NORWICH. Our February news-letter somehow missed the bus, but two events chronicled therein may still be mentioned. One was a most interesting account by Dickie, our Jobmaster, of early Egyptian mythology and religion, leading up to Tutankhamen (may he rest in peace!). The fact that worship in those times was considered as a man's first duty set us making comparisons. At another meeting, Rev. T. B. Clark talked to us about the splendid work among boys carried out on the Thames training-ship "Arethusa." The speaker has lived for many years in Canada, and is now trekking about England in a motor-caravan, which he drives himself, lecturing on behalf of the Shaftesbury Homes for Boys and Girls. Other branches would like to hear how these fatherless lads are given their chance and make good and useful men in many parts of the world. During March, Padre Keyden, Chaplain to Norwich prison, gave us a fine account of what is being done to better the lot of those who fall into the grip of the law, not only while in prison, but (through the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society) afterwards. He indicated how Toc H members could help these men to overcome the stigma of having been in prison, a part of their punishment which is mostly not justified. We must not forget that Elizabeth Fry, the pioneer of prison reform, was born in Norwich. Mr. E. H. Buckingham has also addressed us on the formation and ideals of the League of Nations. Our membership and, we hope, our usefulness have increased, and the fact that applications have come along from several directions for men to do jobs shows that Toc H is becoming recognised locally as being of some use. We have arranged a corporate Communion on April 6, and our annual meeting, to which we have invited some of our neighbours from the newly-formed Yarmouth Group, on April 7.

WRITER

NOTTINGHAM. Internal affairs in the Group have undergone a revolution, and we are now on what we consider a sound basis. The position we were in at the beginning of more men than jobs is definitely reversed. March has brought us to earth: the month's work may be summed up as "Feet firmer, hands busier." We are getting our hands in, with representation on all sorts of committees, and we should know everything worth knowing about requirements of man-power in about another thirty or forty years. Fanthorpe gave us a most interesting and intimate account of his work among the blind folk of Notts, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. Grantibus and Peggy "imploded" from Mark VIII, and talked to us most helpfully, leaving heaps of good ideas behind for use. This was a frightfully serious meeting, but the following evening, when a dozen of us went over to Mark XI to jam ourselves into the club-room with 120 others, was much less so. Lindley, Rover Commissioner and a member, has inducted us to the H.Q. of the Scout Association (and a jolly nice place, too) opposite Victoria Station, over the motor-bike shop, top-floor. On and after April 11 we are at home there on Fridays at 7.30. We hope to emulate other people's hospitality, but crave notice of large numbers intending to drop in. In view of recent unsettled conditions with us, we have not booked far ahead, but one event we can put down—Tubby on Saturday, May 17. On May 18 he is in St. Mary's Church at 10.30 a.m.

A. W. M.

ROTHERHAM has little to report. The furnishing of our new club-room is almost complete, and we can now settle down to business. On two occasions during the month have we had visitors. On March 18, Grantibus and his satellites (Mark VIII) sprung us a visit, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable time. The "fish ball" song tickled the boys immensely. A week later, 'Erb arrived with his family of boys—real Toc H stuff. Business concluded, the proceedings took the form of a good "chin wag." April 2 should find us as return visitors to Mark VIII.

SHEFFIELD. This is chiefly for the purpose of inviting all and sundry to our Bazaar on April 30 and May 1. We shall be grateful for personal help, goods and money. As for news, we have given birth again—this time to the "East Sheffield Group." (Our ex-daughter at Rotherham is now grown-up and "out.") Tinsley is its habitation, Ernest Chapman (Tickets) its father, and a home has been kindly lent for it by Vickers. Other items are that study-circles have been started and are going strong, that Peggy, our Jobmaster, has become one of the Northern secretaries, and that Bill has got married—congratulations to him and a welcome to Mrs. Bill as a Toc Emma. There are whispers of more weddings shortly—but "'ush, we are hobserved," as the melodramas used to say. MAC.

SOUTHAMPTON. It would have been rather difficult if a Southampton representative had tried to answer the two questions that were before the Conference at the Birthday Party, but now, under the influence of a good Jobmaster, our hands are getting busy. It is hoped that good results may come from the endeavours of our working members, especially in this dock town, where there are so many different types of job to tackle. The summer season already shows great promise. The Annual Fête will be held in July, and George Moore is going to run a School of Scouting, on Gillwell Park lines, which will be open to all Toc H Rovers who want to come. (See notice on page 98.—ED.) We hope to have many visitors to Mark V again this year. Members who have never been here are heartily invited to come and see what it is like, while those who have been here will need no re-invitation. Guest Nights have been very successful during the winter months, and we have had some very good speakers, including Alex. Paterson, who gave us an insight into the Borstal Institutions; George Moore, who yarned on his pet subject; the Rev. W. Haslam, a local member who gave an extraordinarily good lecture on "Astronomy"; and Mrs. Robertson, whose lecture on Shackleton's 1914 Expedition was made more interesting by a series of Arctic Expedition sketches drawn by herself. The Sports Section is making great progress. Two Hockey teams are put in the field each week, and occasionally a third team as well, though the Soccer team has been rather indifferent, owing to a lack of keen players. The Tennis Section should again go well, though the new drains have made a sorry mess of the lawns. A Carnival Dance and Whist Drive was held by the Hockey Section at Mark V, and was well attended. We are becoming a big connecting link with the Colonies. From Mark V, England, to Mark I, Canada, is a long step, but the travellers are sure of both a good send-off and a good welcome. We hope to have the Australian Scouts, who are coming over for the Wembley Jamboree, billeted with us for a short time. Greetings from Southampton to all Branches and Groups, and good wishes for a successful summer. J.

SPEN VALLEY. We have to report something more or less sensational—we allowed an atheist to "waffle" to us for an hour and a quarter on his ideas of morality. A very interesting evening, especially as Toc H is out against most of the points in his speech. And important, when we realise that this blunt painter's labourer, who was a conscientious objector in the war, moves in a circle of out-and-out atheists and lovers of the idea of a soviet régime, all banded together to spread their own propaganda, in the conviction that this is how to run the world properly. This should help Toc H to get its back up and prevent any slacking. It would have been worse than cowardly to refuse him a hearing, and, any way, the Branch members have "listened to the other chap's story," and were surprised by the amount of thought he had put into his paper. He particularly wished that Padre should be in the chair, and was so keen that we should fire questions at him that we longed for a Northern

Conference attendance. As it was, he didn't go scot-free. The last train home cut the discussion short, and we are sorry that no shorthand note was taken so that we could have some of his good points in the JOURNAL. Now Easter is coming, we are thinking of having a chara. to go over and raid Mark IV. Have other Branches considered the idea? We wish to congratulate Leeds upon their splendid efforts in their Boys' Club. No. 3 Oxford Place is a real hive of industry, and that's the spirit. Cheerio, Mark VIII! On with the bazaar! We are delighted that Tubby's "earthquake" came off A1.

MEETINGS. First and third Tuesdays at Oddfellows' Institute, Heckmondwike, 7.30 p.m.

SECRETARY BIRD

WIMBORNE. March was the month of our Birthday Anniversary, and on the Guest-Night, Rev. Keith gave us an unusually fine paper on "The Problem of the Present-day Youth," with a general discussion in which our guests joined. Twenty-six were present in the Church House room, a decided improvement. We held our annual meeting on March 21, and appointed Rev. Keith Padre; R. Crib, Chairman and Jobmaster; and F. O. Berry, Secretary, in place of C. Yard, who has done such good work for the last year. Sir R. Glyn will still be President. Our Birthday Service was on Sunday, February 24. We have decided on two meetings, Guest-Night and Business-Night, per month, so as to get both the opinions and the co-operation of all members in Toc H work. I am sorry to disagree with some members, who are afraid of a Branch becoming a "mutual admiration society." If the mixture of members is right, and all grades are out for the ideal of Toc H, then mutual admiration is the best oil for running the machine.

G. M. L.

WORTHING. On March 11 we provided eight stewards for the annual meeting of the local branch of the League of Nations Union, at which Lord Hugh Cecil was the chief speaker. On March 18, Kerswell addressed a meeting at Lancing College, arranged by the Group there, and by our Padre, Bond, who is a housemaster. It has been decided that the school Group shall co-operate with our Branch as far as possible, and that we shall endeavour to assist them to maintain the live interest that they have in Toc H, particularly that they may find it of benefit during the holidays and when they leave. On March 25, we had Prior, of Brighton, speaking on Juvenile work in all, or anyway, most of its branches. He has a first-hand knowledge, and unusual experience of nearly every organisation, and has worked for many years with juvenile "offenders." Moreover, he has a genius for organisation. Any branch is lucky to get hold of him for a Guest Night, or to seek his advice. On Sunday, March 30, our Anglican members are making a corporate communion in St. Paul's Church. Unhappily, we are losing Bentley, who goes to take up the living of All Souls, Clive Vale, Hastings. On Thursday, April 3, we are having a special meeting to wish him God-speed, and to get him on his hind legs for the benefit of the Branch. We congratulate Hastings. At our next meeting, on April 29, we are having another sing-song, at which we hope to entertain the blind men living in this neighbourhood.

BISH.

YARMOUTH. At last we are certainly moving in the right direction. For months past we have been just hanging on, waiting for the necessary impetus. We have started by trying to find the neutral ground for the solving of social problems, and our first debate—"Is Socialism as expounded to-day a Spiritual Movement?" was of great interest. We had a crowd of forty-five, and our Jobmaster, C. Colegrave Scott, took the opportunity of explaining the objects of Toc H. The debate was a great success, and we hope to have another shortly. We are also making inquiries of the different clubs, etc., likely to need assistance, and hope to start with them shortly.

BLOATER